



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
10 December 2003

Original: English

Fifty-eighth session
Second Committee
Agenda items 95 and 121

**Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the
Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes
of the World Summit on Sustainable Development**

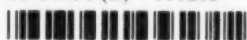
Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.9

**Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with
rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly**

1. Under the terms of paragraph 7 of draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.9, the General Assembly would decide to allocate the resources previously devoted to the former ad hoc intersessional working groups of the Commission on Sustainable Development to support the participation of representatives of States members of the Commission in one of their respective regional meetings in each implementation cycle.
2. Under the terms of paragraph 8, the General Assembly would also decide that the resources released by the termination of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development, whose work has been transferred to the Commission on Sustainable Development, will be used to support the work of the Commission.
3. The attention of the Committee is drawn to the provisions of section VI of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990, in which the Assembly reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters and reaffirmed also the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. Under the circumstances, the consideration by the Second Committee of the text of paragraphs 7 and 8 of draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.9 may be considered to be in contravention of resolution 45/248 B, as it directly addresses the



allocation of resources which fall within the exclusive prerogative of the Fifth Committee.

4. It is estimated that to support the participation of representatives of member States of the Commission in their respective regional meetings in each implementation cycle in accordance with paragraph 7 of the draft resolution, a total amount of \$55,000 would be required. That amount could be funded from the balance of the resources previously allocated to the ad hoc intersessional working groups of the Commission on Sustainable Development. It is recalled that in the report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive and resumed substantive sessions of 2003 (A/C.5/58/10), it is proposed to use \$361,400 of the resources previously devoted to the ad hoc intersessional working groups of the Commission for the establishment of two additional posts at the P-5 and P-3 levels and consultants' requirements to implement the mandates emanating from the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, in line with the decisions contained in the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its eleventh session (E/2003/29), as endorsed by the Economic and Social Council at its 2003 substantive session by its resolution 2003/61. The balance of the resources (\$138,900) would be utilized for the travel of representatives of States members of the Commission to attend the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting, to be convened in New York for one week in the policy year of the Commission, as called for under the new organization and methods of work of the Commission endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in the same resolution.

5. With regard to paragraph 8 of the draft resolution, as reflected in table 9.6 and paragraph 9.42 of section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, resources were not included in the biennium 2004-2005 for the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development since the Committee was abolished in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2002/303. Hence, paragraph 8 would have no meaning or effect.

6. **Accordingly, the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.9 does not entail any additional requirements over the resources requested under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.**